Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

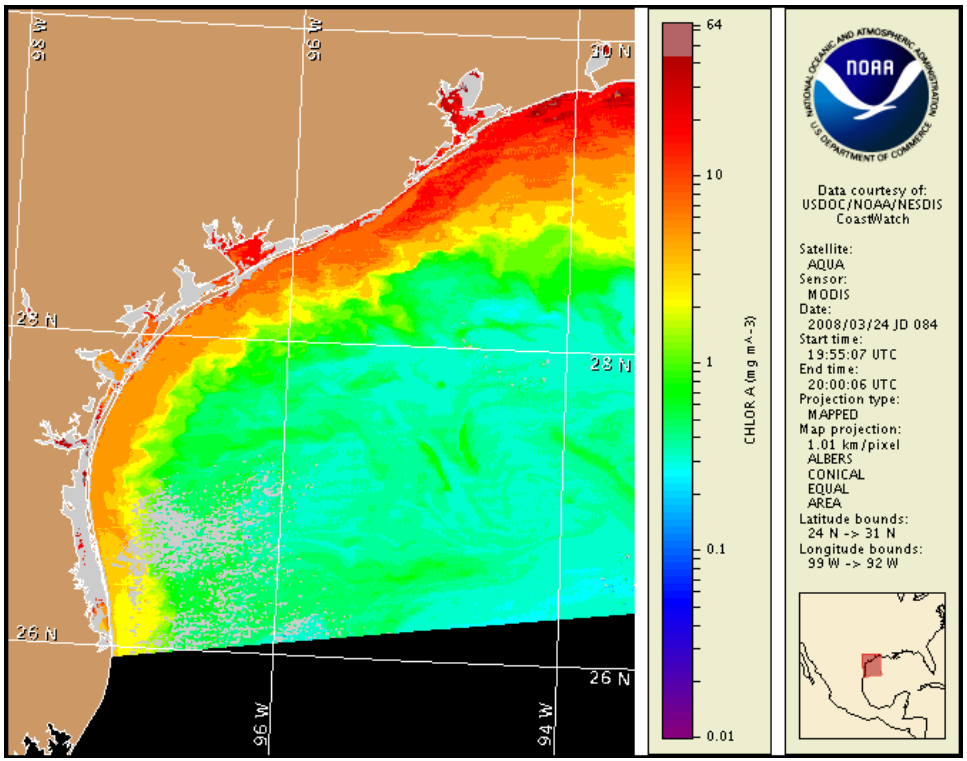
Region: Texas

25 March 2008

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: March 17, 2008



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from March 17 to 20 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

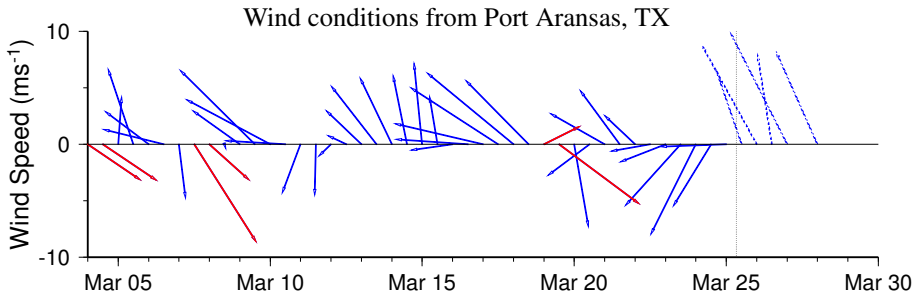
Conditions Report

There have been confirmed reports of blooms of the harmful algae, Dinophysis, around Corpus Christi, Aransas (including St, Charles Bay and Carlos Bay), Copano, Mesquite, San Antonio, Espiritu Santo, Lavaca, Tres Palacios,Caranchaua, and Matagorda Bays. East Matagorda Bay is still open. This is not the usual Texas "red tide" organism,(Karenia brevis) and it does not cause respiratory irritation. Shellfish beds in those bays have been closed by the state of Texas.

Analysis

Blooms of Dinophysis are rare in the US and we do not have a standard for monitoring with remote sensing. Imagery does not provide a useful reference for the blooms, but may aid in circulation patterns. Extensive resuspension is ongoing on the Texas coast, leading to high chlorophyll concentrations that are not caused by nor related to harmful algae.

Transport forecasts presume that the cells have moved in the Gulf of Mexico. We cannot forecast transport in the bays at this time. Additional Northward transport is not expected within the next 48 hours. Strong Sothward transport is likely through Friday. -Wynne, Tomlinson

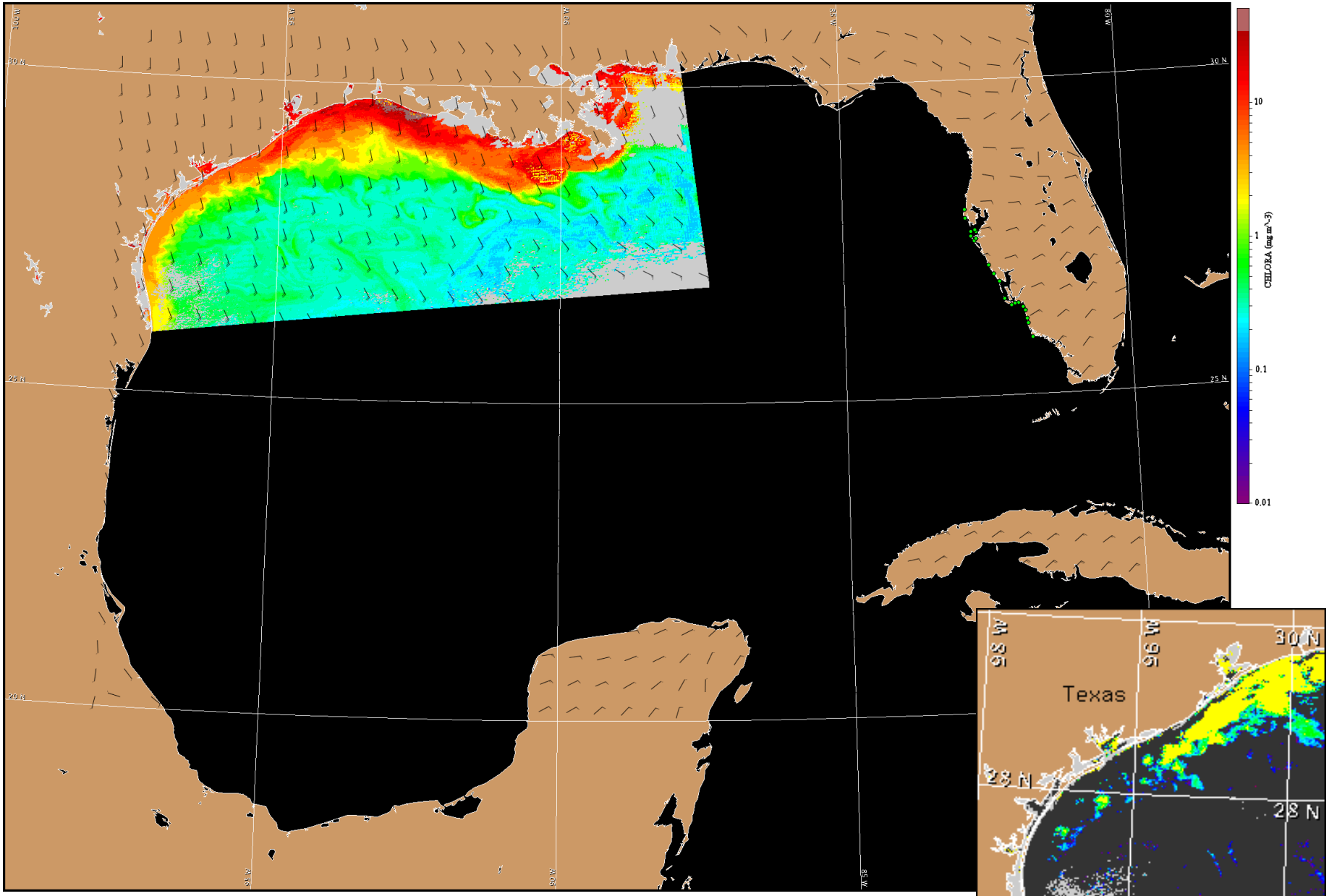


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

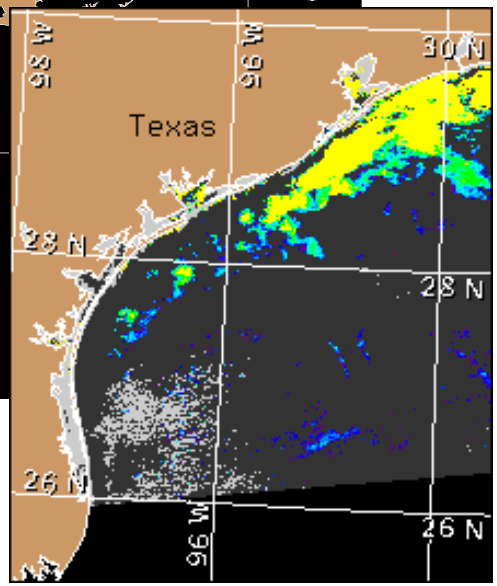
Wind Analysis

SE winds Today and Tomorrow at 15-20 knots. South winds Thursday 15-20 knots. SE winds Friday bewteen 10-20 knots. SE winds Saturday between 5-15 knots.

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA CoastWatch bulletin archive: http://coastwatch.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins_ns.htm



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for March 26, 2008 06Z with Cell concentration sampling data from March 17 to 20 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



Verifi ed and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).